

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-15 and 17-20, without prejudice.

Please amend Claim 16 as indicated below. The pending non-amended claim are also listed for the Examiner's convenience.

D³ ~~16.~~ (Amended Once) A nucleic acid which hybridizes under wash conditions of 30 minutes at 55° C and 150mM salt to the coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Please add new Claims 21-25 as follows:

~~21.~~ (New) An isolated or recombinant polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising:

- SLW
1/27/03
- a) the extracellular domain of SEQ ID NO:2; or
 - b) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

D⁴ ~~22.~~ (New) The polynucleotide of Claim ~~21~~², wherein the polynucleotide is detectably labeled.

~~23.~~ (New) An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim ~~21~~².

~~24.~~ (New) A host cell comprising the expression vector of Claim ~~23~~⁴.

~~25.~~ (Amended Once) A kit comprising the polynucleotide of Claim ~~21~~², and:

- a) a compartment comprising the polynucleotide; and
- b) instructions for use or disposal of reagents in said kit.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changed made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."